Application No. 10/705,403 Amendment dated April 14, 2008

Response to non-final Office Action of August 13, 2007

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the identification of the inconsistencies in Applicants'

Docket No.: 20050/0200484-US0

previous submission. Applicants correct the inconsistencies with this version of the amended

claims and specification.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 5-7 and 9-14 and 18 are presently pending, with claims 2 - 4, 8 and 15-17 having

been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer

Claims 1, 5, 14 and 18 are amended without the introduction of new matter.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the claims as understood patentably

distinguish over the known prior art.

III. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner indicates that the substitute specification filed on May 23, 2007 fails to

comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, and has not been entered. Specifically, the Examiner objects to the

specification with respect to various informalities. The also Examiner continues to object to the

substitute specification filed on March 14, 2006, which was entered, as containing new matter.

- 9

Application No. 10/705,403 Docket No.: 20050/0200484-US0

Amendment dated April 14, 2008 Response to non-final Office Action of August 13, 2007

A revised substitute specification is included with the present response, in both "marked-up"

and "clean" versions. It is believed that this substitute specification addresses each of the objections

raised, for example, in paragraphs 1 - 6 of the present Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the revised substitute specification be

entered, and that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

IV. Objections to the Claims

Claims 5, 14, and 18 are objected to because of various informalities. Applicants thank the

Examiner for suggesting various amendments to address the informalities, and amend claims 5, 14,

and 18 accordingly.

Therefore, Applicants and respectfully request that the objections to claims 5, 14 and 18 be

withdrawn.

V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 5 - 7, 9 - 14 and 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner finds in claims 1 and 14 that the unqualified term "bonded" is

unclear with regard to whether a reference is being made to "direct" bonding, "indirect" bonding or

both. The Examiner also finds that the term "elongated convex area formed along a longitudinal

direction of the surface sheet of the main body" is unclear, as it thereby becomes unclear whether

sheets of the main body enclose the absorber because it is further claimed that an end of the convex

area forms a finger insertion opening.

- 10 -

Application No. 10/705,403

Amendment dated April 14, 2008

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Docket No : 20050/0200484-US0

Applicants amend claims 1 and 14 to a) further qualify the term "bonded" to recite "directly

bonded," and b) to clarify that the elongated convex area is formed "along a longitudinal direction

of the main sheet body." Accordingly, Applicants submit that the meanings of claims 1 and 14 are

respectively clear.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 5 - 7, 9 - 14 and 18

under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition

for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number

indicated below once he has reviewed the proposed amendment if the Examiner believes any issue

can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

Dated: April 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted.

By Ou le

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- 11 -